

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 29, 2008, and the references cited therein have been considered. Claims 1-11 and 14-20 have been rejected. Claims 12 and 13 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

Office Action Summary of Rejections/Objections

1. Claims 1-7, 9, 11, and 14-20 are rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Ma et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,677,709 (Ma) in view of Chen U.S. Pat. No. 6,717,847 (Chen).

2. Claims 8 and 10 are rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) over Ma in view of Chen and Irvin et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,876,723 (Irvin).

3. Claims 12 and 13 are identified as being allowable if re-written in independent form.

Applicants traverse the grounds for each and every rejection of (or objection to) claims 1-20. Applicants have amended the claims in view of the Office Action's identification of allowable subject-matter. However, Applicants reserve the right to argue the patentability of each of the rejected claims in a continuation application.

Amendments Summary

Applicants' amendments are intended to incorporate the claimed subject-matter (claims 12 and 13) deemed allowable in the current Office Action into each of the presently pending claims. In particular:

Claim 1 is now amended to include the elements recited in claims 11 and 12.

Claims 11-13 are canceled since the claimed subject-matter is now incorporated into the independent claims.

Claim 14 is amended to adjust the dependency in view of the incorporation of claim 11 into claim 1.

Claim 16 has been amended to add the limitations recited previously in claims 11 and 12 (paralleling the amendment of claim 1).

New claim 21 is a combination of claims 1, 11 and 13 (previously identified as being allowable in the Office Action). Claim 13 was canceled and re-introduced as claim 21 in view of the amendments to claim 1 (combining claims 1, 11 and 12)

New claims 22-29 which depend from claim 21, are also provided. New claims 22-29 recite elements set forth in claims 2-9.

New claims 30 and 31 recite elements set forth in dependent claims 14 and 15.

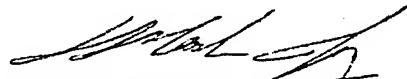
New claim 32 recites a combination of claims 16, 11 and 13 which tracks the combination of claims 1, 11 and 13 (deemed allowable).

New claims 33-36 correspond to (recite elements) previously presented claims 17-20.

Each of the amendments to the independent claims is intended to recite a combination of claim elements corresponding to either: the combination of claims 1, 11 and 12; or the combination of claims 1, 11 and 13 – both combinations being deemed objected to/otherwise allowable in the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. Please charge any fee deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 12-1216.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Joy, Reg. No. 35,562
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: March 2, 2009